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PROGRAM CBS World News Roundup

STATION WTOP Radio
CBS Network

DATE June 3, 1982 8:00 A.M.

CITY Washington, D.C.

SUBJECT Teacher Accused of Spying

DALLAS TOWNSEND: Lisa Wichser, a 28-year-old American teacher from Indianapolis, was released in Peking today after being held for nearly a week on unofficial charges of spying for the CIA.

Bruce Dunning has details.

BRUCE DUNNING: Chinese authorities said Lisa Wichser confessed to her crimes and pleaded for leniency. For that reason, said an announcement from the Foreign Ministry, she was released from detention and ordered to leave China within 48 hours.

Wichser was seized by security agents last Friday and put in detention for questioning on accusations of stealing state secrets. The U.S. Embassy protested the failure of the Chinese authorities to notify them promptly or to allow American officials to see her quickly.

Wichser had been teaching here and also doing research for her Ph.D. thesis on Chinese agricultural economics. She had recently applied for permission to marry a Chinese economics student who had been assisting her in research. He and a number of his associates are believed to have been arrested as well.

In China, the term state secrets can apply to any information not released officially. Wichser apparently aroused suspicion because she was here as a teacher, not as an accredited scholar.

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